

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 722
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to commend Russell Joel Blair for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Russell Joel Blair is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as a legislative intern for Speaker of the House of Representatives James O. Naifeh; Russell's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators he assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a summa cum laude graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan College, where he was highly regarded by his peers, Mr. Blair achieved academic success while majoring in History, graduating in the top ten percent of his class and participating in numerous extracurricular activities, including Alpha Chi and the Tennessee Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Russell is a Presidential Academic Recognition Scholarship Recipient, a Legacy Scholarship Recipient, a Townsend Award Nominee, a Harry Russell Caldwell Award Winner for excellence in history, and a featured person in the *Daily Post-Athenian* "Spotlight on People" article; he was also recognized on the Tennessee Wesleyan Honor's List and the Dean's List and in the college's Honors Program; and

WHEREAS, this lifelong Etowah resident plans to attend the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville, Tennessee, to pursue a J.D. degree; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexity of Tennessee state government and to further his studies, Russell Blair brought his many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2005 session of the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, during his legislative internship, he served with distinction as a Bill Clerk, a Vote Runner, a Primary Clerk for the House Education Committee, a Secondary Clerk for the State and Local Government Committee and Commerce Committee, a Computer Clerk for the House Transportation Committee, and a Subcommittee Clerk for the Parks and Tourism Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2005 legislative session, Russell Blair has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Russell is most thankful for the love and support of his parents, Joel and Teri Blair, and his sister, Jessica Blair Goodin; he is the grandson of Broughton and Betty Blair and Kay and the late Jakie Melton; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church of Etowah, he has served the church faithfully as a Lay Leader and as a Recreation Board Member; and

WHEREAS, Russell Blair has performed his many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Russell Joel Blair for outstanding service as a legislative intern for Speaker of the House of Representatives James O. Naifeh and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.